

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

In recent years the School has undergone a rapid and significant growth phase. Enrolments have grown from 1,566 in 2013 to 2,720 in 2018. This has meant that the School has had to plan, implement and manage the associated increases in staff numbers and infrastructure.

It is a great credit to the Principal, Mr Neil Hunt, and his executive team, that this critical growth phase has been successfully handled so efficiently and effectively, while at the same time improving the high academic standards and maintaining the values and culture within the School.

With the completion of the Year 7 Wing, science/arts block, mathematics block, technology centre and gymnasium, the intense building program should abate and stabilize.

The School Board is of the unanimous view that the School has reached its optimal size and capacity. The aim is to reduce enrolments to 2,500 to facilitate the removal of all demountables and reclaim the playing fields.

However, the School's enrolment pressures will not be alleviated unless and until:

- Local intake area boundaries are altered and made compulsory
- The optional area between Churchlands SHS and Carine SHS is designated to Carine SHS – a major discrepancy exists in that between 2013 and 2017 Churchlands enrolments grew by 74%, whereas Carine enrolments grew by only 16%

On 31 July 2017, Tracy Galton and I, together with the Chair of Shenton College, met with the Hon. Sue Ellery, Minister for Education, to express our concerns regarding the rising enrolments at our respective schools. The P&C has also made similar representations to the Minister on this matter. The Minister took on board our views and advised that the new school adjacent to Perth Modern School would help alleviate the problem. As this new school is not due to open until 2020, and then only with a Year 7 intake, this new school will have a minimal effect on enrolments at Churchlands, even in the long term.

Furthermore, in response to a submission from the Board, the Minister advised in November 2017 that "With regard to the changes in per-student funding, economies of scale are evident as student numbers increase, which means larger schools have significant amounts of discretionary funding after they have met their general operating costs."

To this end, the Minister announced that from 2018 schools having more than 1,200 students would have their per-student funding reduced by \$1,145 for each student over 1,200. With 2,720 students in 2018, along with other reductions, this has meant that Churchlands has had its 2018 budget reduced by about \$2 million, virtually overnight. The Principal and the Executive are endeavouring to accommodate and manage the required budgetary changes, but it will inevitably and regrettably mean a reduction in some services and facilities.

On a brighter note, in October 2017, the School hosted a "Back to School" event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1967. This is the first cohort of students to achieve their 50th and become the inaugural members of the "Churchlands Gold Class". This will now be an annual event for successive graduating years. Thanks go to Tracy Galton and Nawal Kurson for arranging the event. I still cannot believe that I graduated from Churchlands fifty years ago in 1968.

The Churchlands Senior High School Foundation (Inc) "Solar Power for Scholarships" project is now progressing with the solar panels planned for installation by the end of 2018. Along with the donors to the Foundation, I would like to acknowledge and thank the P&C for their generous contribution and commitment to the project. Thanks to the generosity of the Alumni, the P&C and past and present parents, over \$800,000 has been raised towards this exciting and innovative project.

The Board congratulates the graduating class of 2017 and it was a pleasure to again attend the well organised graduation ceremony in November. Their achievements are a great testament, not only to the students and their families, but also to the principal, teachers, support staff and school management as a whole. This success has enhanced Churchlands Senior High School's reputation within both the education and wider communities.

The success and reputation of the School depend on cooperation between and the hard work and dedication of: the leadership of the Principal and his executive and administrative team, an active School Board, P&C, Alumni and Foundation, and of course, the staff and the students.

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In particular, I would like to thank the Principal, Mr Neil Hunt, for his leadership and along with his Executive team for their application and dedication to achieving the best outcome for the School. The Board has been very pleased with the planning, implementation and execution of the various strategies set out in the School's Business Plan. The members of the Board have strategic oversight of the School's achievement targets, finance and overall direction and have worked in positive accord with the School administration.

During 2017, the School Board focused its efforts in the following areas:

- Review of the reports by the Principal on the progress of the Business Plan.
- Endorsement of the Annual School Report, school budget and student performance targets and achievements.
- Endorsement of the financial arrangements necessary to fund the school objectives, priorities and directions.
- Review and endorsement of current and future building programs.
- Support and promotion of the Board, the P&C, the Churchlands Foundation and the Alumni in the School and the community.

Serving on a School Board is a privileged opportunity to contribute and create better outcomes for the School, students, staff, parents and community.

I acknowledge Tracy Gralton (Alumni Representative), Chris Porteous (P&C Representative), Grant Brinklow, Adrian O'Brien and Janet Pettigrew (Elected Parent Representatives), Jane Hegarty and Kim Hudson (Staff Members), Pinithi Siriwardana (Head Girl) and Liam Birch (Head Boy) all of whom generously gave their time during 2017 as Board Members and I thank them for their efforts and dedication.

The Board appointed former student Allira Winmar as Community member at the end of 2017 and I look forward to her contribution in our School in 2018.

For your information, copies of the Minutes of all Board meetings are published on the School's website <https://www.churchlands.wa.edu.au> shortly after each meeting.

The Board welcomes your input and encourages your feedback.

John Gillon
Chairman
Churchlands Senior High School Board
jmgillon@iinet.net.au